



Ski Spectacular Instructor Academy

Hosted by The Hartford Ski Spectacular

December 8-11, 2025

Clinic Summary Notes

Clinic Title: Quick On-Snow Assessment for Adaptive Equipment Needs – Scott Giffin
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1. Once on the snow, further assessment may be required. Signs might include guest discomfort, tracks in the snow, guest inability to perform one or more fundamental movements, or MA.
 - a. Physical assessment to include:
 - Balance and coordination—lateral, fore/aft, gait
 - Muscle strength and endurance—upper and lower body
 - Flexibility and range of movement
 - Symmetry—spine, hips, shoulders, arm and leg length/shape, foot to foot, and overall stance
 - Sensation—upper/lower, hands, feet (soles)
 - Orthopedics
 - b. Sensory issues—five senses, feel, proprioception, vestibular
2. Determine needs.
 - a. Is the guest comfortable? Does the guest feel safe? Apply findings from physical and sensory assessments.
 - b. Make changes to equipment, but only if trained to do so.
 - Adjust outrigger length or tail configuration—enhance balance, strength and endurance, or function
 - Adjust angles of outrigger skis or cuffs if design allows
 - Loosen or remove straps—increase mobility, comfort
 - Provide symmetry, flat riding surfaces—rubber shims, trail maps, folded duct tape
 - Secure grip, provide comfort—Velcro, neck gaiters
 - Heel bungie, if appropriate and only with tip retention
 - Learn and accrue techniques from other instructors, be creative and curious



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3. Suggested toolkit items: multi-tool with pliers, flat and Phillips' screwdrivers; 4-way wrench; small adjustable wrench; multi-Allen tool; Velcro strips; various-size zip ties; extra outrigger pins; tip retention; heel bungee cord; latex-free duct tape, shims, cants; extra padding (small); mobile phone for MA.
4. See PSIA-AASI's *Adaptive Alpine Technical Manual* and *Adaptive Instruction Supplement: Diagnoses and Classifications*. A free digital copy of these manuals can be found at <https://thesnowpros.org/education/digital-manuals-for-every-discipline/>